

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 17, 2000

S. 2924 Internet False Identification Prevention Act of 2000

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on September 28, 2000

CBO estimates that implementing S. 2924 would cost less than \$500,000 annually, from appropriated funds. Because enactment of the bill could affect direct spending and receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. However, CBO estimates that any impact on direct spending and receipts would not be significant. S. 2924 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 2924 would direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a two-year task force to combat crimes involving the use of false identification documents. The bill also would establish new federal crimes relating to the production of false identification documents.

Based on information from the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury, CBO expects that the agencies would spend less than \$500,000 annually on the activities of the task force. Successful investigations by the task force would increase the caseload and costs of the judiciary and the prison systems, but we estimate that such costs would be less than \$500,000 annually because of the relatively small number of cases likely to be involved.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under S. 2924 could be subject to criminal fines, the government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (i.e., revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years. Any additional collections from enacting S. 2924 are not likely to be significant because of the relatively small number of cases involved. Because any increase in direct spending would equal the fines collected (with a lag of one year or more), the additional direct spending also would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.